

CLAIMS AMENDMENTS

1. (currently amended) Process for producing cigarette packs (10) of the hinge-lid type with an outer wrapper made of film and with a tear-open strip (12) applied to the outer wrapper, comprising the steps of:
 - a) drawing a continuous film web (13) off of a reel (15), the continuous film web (13) having been provided with precisely positioned printed markings (25) thereon during production of the continuous film web (13), the continuous film web (13) also having decorative or informative printing thereon,
 - b) drawing a material strip (18) for producing the tear-open strip (12) off of a separate strip reel (19), the material strip (18) having been provided with precisely positioned printing or printed markings (24) thereon during production of the material strip (18), the material strip (18) also having decorative or informative printing thereon, and feeding the material strip (18) to the continuous film web (13),
 - c) feeding the material strip (18) to the continuous film web (13) and applying the material strip (18) to the continuous film web (13),
 - d) sensing the printing or printed markings (24) on the material strip (18) for producing the tear-open strip (12) by a print printed-mark reader (26) after the material strip (18) for producing the tear-open strip (12) has been applied to the film web (13), and then
 - e) sensing the printed markings (25) of the continuous film web (13) by another printed-mark reader (30) after the tear-open strip (12) has been applied to the continuous film web (13), and
 - f) severing blanks (11) for the outer wrapper from the continuous film web (13) to which the material strip (18) has been applied, wherein a severing cut for severing the blanks (11) with the tear-open strips (12) from the continuous film web (13) is controlled in accordance with both the detected printing or printed markings (24) of the tear-open strip (12) and the detected printed markings (25) of the continuous film web (13).

2. (cancelled).
3. (cancelled).
4. (cancelled).
5. (cancelled).

6. (currently amended) Apparatus for producing cigarette packs (10) of the hinge-lid type with an outer wrapper made of film and with a tear-open strip (12) applied to the outer wrapper and likewise consisting of film, ~~in which blanks (11) for the outer wrapper are covered from a continuous film web (13) that has a tear-open strip (12) applied thereto, comprising:~~

- a) a strip reel (19) containing a material strip (18) for producing the tear-open strips (12), the material strip (18) having been provided with precisely positioned printing or markings (24) thereon during production of the material strip (18), the material strip (18) also having decorative or informative printing thereon, the material strip (18) being held ready on the strip reel (19) for being drawn off along a path of movement,
- b) a reel (15) containing the continuous film web (13), the continuous film web (13) having been provided with precisely positioned printing marks (25) thereon during production of the continuous film web (13), the continuous film web (13) also having decorative or informative printing thereon, the continuous film web (13) being held ready on the reel (15) for being drawn off of the reel (15) along the path of movement,
- c) a means for applying the material strip (18) to the continuous film web (13) along the path of movement after the material strip (18) has been drawn off of the strip reel (19),
- d) a printed-mark reader (26) located in the region of the path of movement ~~along which the material strip (18) for producing of the tear-open strips (12) is applied to the continuous film web (13)~~, wherein the printed-mark reader (26) senses the ~~printing or printed~~ markings (24) of the material strip (18) for producing the tear-open strips (12),
- e) another printed mark reader (30) located in the region of the path of movement of the tear-open strip (12) applied to the continuous film web (13), wherein the another printed mark reader (30) senses the printed markings (25) of the continuous film web (13).

- f) the printed mark reader (26) is connected to an evaluation unit, connected to both the printed-mark reader (26) and the another printed mark reader (30), for evaluating the positions of the printing or printed markings (24) on the material strip (18) for producing the tear-open strip (12) and the printed markings (25) on the continuous film web (13) sensed by the printed-mark reader,
- f) a means for severing the blank (11) containing the tear-open strip (12) from the continuous film web (13) to which the material strip (18) has been applied, and
- g) drive elements for the material strip (18) and the continuous film web (13), whereby the drive elements are controlled by the printed-mark reader readers (26, 30) via the evaluation unit.

7. (cancelled).

8. (cancelled).

9. (cancelled).

10. (cancelled).

11. (cancelled).

12. (cancelled).

13. (cancelled).

14. (cancelled).

15. (cancelled).

16. (cancelled).

17. (cancelled).

18. (cancelled).

19. (cancelled).

20. (cancelled).

21. (currently amended) A process for producing cigarette packs (10) of the hinge-lid type with an outer wrapper made of film, comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a material strip (18) with precisely positioned ~~printing or printed~~ markings (24) ~~and decorative or informative printing thereon, for producing tear-open strips (12);~~
- b) providing a continuous film web (13) with precisely positioned printed markings (25) and decorative or informative printing thereon;
- c) feeding the material strips (18) to the continuous film web (13) along a path of movement and attaching the tear-open material strips (12) having the precisely positioned printing or markings (24) thereon to a the continuous film web (13) as tear-open strips (12);
- d) sensing the ~~printing or printed~~ markings (24) of the tear-open strips (12) with a printed-mark reader (26);
- e) sensing the printed markings (25) of the continuous film web (13) with another printed-mark reader (30);
- f) controlling the positioning of a severing cut for severing individual blanks (11) comprising the tear-open strips (12) ~~from attached to~~ the continuous film web (13) in accordance with the sensing of the ~~printing or printed~~ markings (24) of the tear-open strips (12) ~~and the printed markings (25) of the continuous film web (13);~~ and then
- e) severing the individual blanks (11) from the continuous film web (13) having the tear-open strips (12) attached thereto for use as an outer wrapper ~~from the continuous film web (13)~~ based on the sensing of the ~~printing or printed~~ markings (24) of the tear-open strips (12) ~~and the printed markings (25) of the continuous film web (13)~~, wherein the blanks (11) comprise a portion of the continuous film web (13) and the tear-open strip (12) and whereby the ~~printing or printed~~ markings (24) of the tear-open strips (12) ~~and the printed markings (25) of the continuous film web (13)~~ are precisely positioned in a precise position relative to ~~for severing the blank (11) from the continuous film web (13).~~

22. (currently amended) An apparatus for producing cigarette packs (10) of the hinge-lid type with an outer wrapper made of film, comprising:

- a) means for providing a material strip (18) with precisely positioned ~~printing or printed~~ markings (24) and decorative or informative printing thereon for producing tear-open strips (12);
- b) means for attaching applying the tear-open strips (12) ~~having the precisely positioned printing or markings (24) thereon~~ to a continuous film web (13), the continuous film web (13) having precisely positioned printed markings (25) and decorative or informative printing thereon;
- c) a printed-mark reader (26), located proximal to a path of movement where the tear-open strips (12) are applied to the continuous film web (13), ~~for sensing wherein the printed-mark reader senses the positions of the printing or printed~~ markings (24) on the tear-open strips (12);
- d) another printed mark reader (30), located proximal to the path of movement where the tear-open strips (12) are applied to the continuous film web (13), wherein the another printed mark reader (30) senses the printed markings (25) of the continuous film web (13),
- ee) an evaluation unit, connected to the printed-mark reader (26) and the another printed mark reader (30), for evaluating the sensed positions of the ~~printing or printed~~ markings (24) on the tear-open strip (12) and the printed markings (25) on the continuous film web (13); and
- d) drive elements, which are controlled by the printed-mark reader (26) and the another printed mark reader (30) via the evaluation unit, for driving the continuous film web (13) so as to allow the severing of individual blanks (11) for the outer wrapper from the continuous film web (13) at a position based on the sensing of the ~~printing or printed~~ markings (24) on the tear-open strips (12) and the printed markings (25) on the continuous film web (13), whereby the ~~printing or printed~~ markings (24) of the tear-open strips (12) and the printed markings (25) on the continuous film web (13) While these devices are in the general category of food holding devices, they are for the most part not sufficiently analogous and one of ordinary skill in the art would not combine such disparate

devices or elements without some type of motivation or blueprint, namely
Applicant's invention are positioned in a precise position relative to the blank (11).

23. (cancelled).

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